

USERY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK

MONTHLY PROGRAMS

PARK HOURS:

Sunday – Thursday: 6 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Friday – Saturday: 6 a.m. – 10 p.m.
365 days a year

NATURE CENTER HOURS:

Monday – Sunday: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

ADMIN. OFFICE HOURS:

Monday – Friday: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

PARK FEES:

\$6 vehicle day-use entry fee (no additional fees for programs, unless otherwise noted)

DIRECTIONS:

From central Phoenix, I-10 east to US 60 east. Exit Ellsworth Road north to the Userly Mountain Regional Park entrance.



Maricopa County

Parks and Recreation Dept.
Userly Mountain Regional Park
3939 N. Userly Pass Road
Mesa, AZ 85207
Ph: 480-984-0032
Fax: 480-357-1545
userypark@mail.maricopa.gov



JANUARY, 2015 FEATURED PROGRAMS

Hiker's Choice Full Moon Hike and Campfire

Date: 1/3/2015 Time: 7 p.m.

Description: Here's your chance to experience the desert under the glowing light of the full moon! We will offer both a self-guided and a guided hike – the choice is yours. Afterwards, enjoy the toasty flames of a campfire and a free marshmallow roast. Bring your flashlight, water, and closed-toe shoes for this 2-mile desert adventure. No pets, please.
Location: Horse Staging Area.

Core: Health & Fitness

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Venomous Reptiles – LIVE!!

Date: 1/10/2015 Time: 7 p.m.

Description: Join reptile expert, Cale Morris, for this exciting presentation of live venomous reptiles! Cale will be bringing several different rattlesnakes and a Gila monster with him. Bring your curiosities and questions to Userly Park and discover lots of cool things about these rockin' reptiles! **Location:** Nature Center.

Core: Animals

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Strange and Silly Saguaros

Date: 1/23/2015 Time: 6 p.m.

Description: When it comes to desert plants, saguaros are everybody's favorite!

Like people, each one of them is unique. They can even make us laugh! Ranger B has taken photos of some of the most strange and silly saguaros around. Join us for this entertaining slide presentation and explore the special world of these amazing desert giants. Watch us feed our snakes after the program at 7pm. Then join our "Animal Flashlight Walk" at 7:30pm at no extra cost! **Location:** Nature Center..

Core: Plants

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Geology of the Grand Canyon

Date: 1/31/2015 Time: 7 p.m.

Description: The Grand Canyon is one of the most beautiful places on earth! How did it get that way? What formed it? How old is it? What makes it so special? Join local geology professor, A. J. Lombard, as he shares a wealth of information about the unique geology of the Grand Canyon in this exciting and colorful slide presentation. Bring your curiosities and questions to Userly Park and discover lots of amazing things about our national treasure! **Location:** Nature Center.

Core: Geology

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MONTHLY EVENTS

"Just for Kids" – Toddler Cruise

Date: 1/2/2015 **Time:** 10 a.m.

Description: This 1-mile hike is designed for parents and caregivers with small children, ages 3 – 6. Along with Miss Lynn, the kids will howl like coyotes, do the "bobcat crawl" and learn how to hydrate by counting gulps of water on their fingers. We will explore the desert along the scenic Merkle Trail. The hard-smooth surface of this trail will accommodate wheelchairs and strollers. Please bring water, hats, and closed-toe shoes. Location: Area 6.
Core: Animals

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Backyard Birding

Date: 1/2/2015 **Time:** 10 a.m.

Description: Do you drink coffee on your back porch Saturday mornings wondering about the names of the little birds fluttering about? Bring your coffee to Usery Park and explore the endless possibilities of backyard birding with bird expert, Sandy Hornbaker. Learn how to attract different birds to your own backyard and what you must provide to your feathered friends. Ask Sandy what your responsibilities are as a backyard birdwatcher and what you can expect. Please bring binoculars and water. Location: Campsite 21 in the Buckhorn Campground.
Core: Outdoor Skills

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Super Saguaro Walk

Date: 1/2/2015 **Time:** 2 p.m.

Description: Why do saguaros grow arms? Can you estimate the age of a saguaro? Can you drink water from one? If you would like to know the answers to these questions, or any questions you may have about saguaros, then this quarter-mile stroll along the scenic Desert Hawk Trail with Ranger B is for you! Please bring water and closed-toe shoes. Location: Nature Center.
Core: Plants

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Wag 'n' Walk Dog Adoption Hike

Date: 1/3/2015 **Time:** 9 a.m.

Description: Don't have a dog? No problem! Maricopa County's Animal Care & Control and Parks and Recreation Departments have united to bring you this program. You can "test drive" potential canine hiking partners to see how they behave on leash and get along with other dogs, while learning about trail etiquette and safety. Owned, friendly, leashed dogs that are at least six months old and current on their vaccinations are welcome to join this one-mile trek on our scenic, groomed, Merkle Trail. Please bring water, closed-toe shoes, and an open heart for a possible new best friend, or two. This program will be held on the first Saturday of each month,

from October through April. Location: Area 6.

Core: Animals

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Saturday Bird Walk

Date: 1/3/2015 **Time:** 10 a.m.

Description: How do you tell one brown bird from the next, and what are the first three items to look for as the little rascal flits off? Are you already a novice but interested in keeping a yearly, state or national bird list? Bird expert, Sandy Hornbaker, will talk about bird habitat, behavior, range, etc. as we go in search of the native birds in this area. Please bring binoculars, water, and closed-toe shoes. If needed, we have binoculars to borrow. Location: Nature Center.
Core: Animals

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Kid vs. Wild

Date: 1/3/2015 **Time:** 2 p.m.

Description: Kids, what would you do if you got lost in the desert? This fun program will teach you what to do! You will learn how to find your way, signal for help, build an emergency shelter, and avoid desert dangers. This program involves a 1-mile hike and is designed for kids ages 7-12. Kids must be accompanied by an adult. Please bring water, hats, and closed-toe shoes. Location: Group Picnic C.
Core: Outdoor Skills

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Hiker's Choice Full Moon Hike and Campfire

Date: 1/3/2015 **Time:** 7 p.m.

Description: Here's your chance to experience the desert under the glowing light of the full moon! We will offer both a self-guided and a guided hike – the choice is yours. Afterwards, enjoy the toasty flames of a campfire and a free marshmallow roast. Bring your flashlight, water, and closed-toe shoes for this 2-mile desert adventure. No pets, please. Location: Horse Staging Area.
Core: Health & Fitness

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Sonoran Desert 101

Date: 1/4/2015 **Time:** 2 p.m.

Description: Join us for this introduction to some of the fascinating animals and plants of our Sonoran Desert as we enjoy a scenic stroll along the quarter-mile Desert Hawk Trail. Please bring water and closed-toe shoes. Location: Nature Center
Core: Animals

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Backyard Birding

Date: 1/7/2015 **Time:** 10 a.m.

Description: Do you drink coffee on your back porch Saturday mornings wondering about the names of the little birds fluttering about? Bring your coffee to Usery Park and explore the endless possibilities of backyard birding with bird expert, Sandy Hornbaker.

Learn how to attract different birds to your own backyard and what you must provide to your feathered friends. Ask Sandy what your responsibilities are as a backyard birdwatcher and what you can expect. Please bring binoculars and water. Location: Campsite 21 in the Buckhorn Campground.

Core: Outdoor Skills

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All About Desert Hiking

Date: 1/7/2015 **Time:** 12 p.m.

Description: What are the special challenges that desert hikers face? What are the special things you need to know to make your hikes both safe and enjoyable? If you would like to know the answers to these questions, or any questions you may have about desert hiking, then this one-hour presentation is for you! Bring your sandwich to the "Brown-Bag It" series inside our nature center as Ranger B shares important hiking tips to help you be a safe and happy hiker. Location: Nature Center.
Core: Outdoor Skills

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Three Mile Thursday

Date: 1/8/2015 **Time:** 8 a.m.

Description: Want to get in shape and stay in shape? Want to meet others who want to do the same? Join us for this fun 3 mile moderate-pace hike through our scenic desert. Please bring water and closed-toe shoes. Location: Horse Staging Area.
Core: Health & Fitness

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Thursday Bird Walk

Date: 1/8/2015 **Time:** 10 a.m.

Description: How do you tell one brown bird from the next and what are the first three items to look for as the little rascal flits off? Are you already a novice but interested in keeping a yearly, state or national bird list? Bird expert, Sandy Hornbaker, will talk about bird habitat, behavior, range, etc. as we go in search of the native birds in this area. Please bring binoculars, water, and closed-toe shoes. Location: Horse Staging Area.
Core: Animals

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"Just for Kids" – Storytime in the Desert

Date: 1/8/2015 **Time:** 11 a.m.

Description: Kids (including parents and caregivers) will learn about our desert through a fun story, game, and a short nature walk. Feel free to bring a picnic lunch to enjoy after the program as we have two playgrounds in our park. Please bring water and closed-toe shoes. Location: Nature Center.
Core: Entertainment & Social Skills

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USERY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Hike the Wind Cave Trail

Date: 1/9/2015 **Time:** 10 a.m.

Description: Why is the hike up to Wind Cave such a popular hike? Join us and find out! This difficult, 3-mile round-trip hike gains over 800 feet in elevation and presents some of the most spectacular scenery in the Valley! Please bring water, hats, snacks, and closed-toe shoes. Meet at the Wind Cave Trailhead.

Core: Health & Fitness

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Basics of Bird Watching

Date: 1/9/2015 **Time:** 10 a.m.

Description: Interested about getting into bird watching but don't know where to start? Want to know which bird is which and how to spot them? Join bird expert, Sandy Hornbaker, for this introduction to bird watching as she guides you on a quarter-mile stroll along our Desert Hawk Trail. Bring binoculars if you have them, otherwise, Sandy has some to loan. Please bring water and closed-toe shoes. Location: Nature Center.

Core: Outdoor Skills

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Movie Night in the Park: "What Plants Talk About"

Date: 1/9/2015 **Time:** 7 p.m.

Description: Join us on a fascinating journey into the secret world of plants, where plants communicate, cooperate, and sometimes wage all-out war. You will discover that plants are a lot less passive and a lot more intelligent than you think! Feel free to bring snacks with you (no glass bottles), otherwise, concessions are available. Location: Nature Center.

Core: Plants

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Archery at Usery Mountain Park: Archery 101 (Two class times available)

Date: 1/10/2015 **Time:** 9 a.m.

Description: Interested in archery? Curious about how to shoot a bow? Come to Usery Park and find out! You will discover how fun archery really is! Participants will experience a fun and safe introduction to recreational and international-style target archery. Equipment will be provided. This class is open to anyone ages 8 and up. Minors must be accompanied by an adult. Please bring water, hats, and closed-toe shoes. Meet at the Archery Range. Note: This same class is also offered at 10:30am. No registration – just show up and have some fun!

Core: Outdoor Skills

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New to Arizona?

Date: 1/10/2015 **Time:** 10 a.m.

Description: Are you new to Arizona? Are you curious about cactus and scared of snakes? If so, join us for an introductory

experience to the Sonoran Desert. After a question-and-answer session, we will take an enjoyable quarter-mile walk on our scenic Desert Hawk Trail. Please bring water and closed-toe shoes. Location: Nature Center.

Core: Animals

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All About Hummingbirds

Date: 1/10/2015 **Time:** 12 p.m.

Description: What makes hummingbirds so special and unique? Which hummingbird species are found in this area? How do they survive and thrive in the wild? If you would like to know the answers to these questions, or any questions you may have about hummingbirds, then this one-hour presentation is for you! Bring your sandwich to the "Brown-Bag It" series inside our Nature Center as bird expert, Sandy Hornbaker, deepens our understanding and appreciation for our feathered friends. Location: Nature Center.

Core: Animals

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Venomous Reptiles – LIVE!!

Date: 1/10/2015 **Time:** 7 p.m.

Description: Join reptile expert, Cale Morris, for this exciting presentation of live venomous reptiles! Cale will be bringing several different rattlesnakes and a Gila monster with him. Bring your curiosities and questions to Usery Park and discover lots of cool things about these rockin' reptiles! Location: Nature Center.

Core: Animals

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Wildlife Safari

Date: 1/11/2015 **Time:** 10 a.m.

Description: We all love to see wild animals, but where are they hiding this time of year? Join us on this exciting 1.5-mile wildlife safari as we sneak to the secret places where the park's wildlife is often seen. Feel free to bring your camera and binoculars. Please bring water, hats, and closed-toe shoes. Location: Horse Staging Area.

Core: Animals

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Cool Cactus Walk

Date: 1/11/2015 **Time:** 2 p.m.

Description: What are the names of the cacti that grow in our desert? How do they survive (and thrive!) in such a harsh environment? Discover amazing facts about these incredible plants when you join our Interpretive Ranger for this scenic stroll along the quarter-mile Desert Hawk Trail. Please bring water and closed-toe shoes. Location: Nature Center.

Core: Plants

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Meandering the Merkle

Date: 1/14/2015 **Time:** 10 a.m.

Description: You never know what you're going to find out in our desert! Join desert

aficionado, Susan Peters, on this 1-mile/1-hour stroll along the Merkle Trail in search of desert plants, animals, and whatever else interests you. The Merkle Trail offers universal access and the hard-smooth surface of this trail will accommodate wheelchairs and strollers. Please bring your questions, water, and closed-toe shoes. Location: Area 6.

Core: Plants

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Basics of Bird Watching

Date: 1/14/2015 **Time:** 10 a.m.

Description: Interested about getting into bird watching but don't know where to start? Want to know which bird is which and how to spot them? Join bird expert, Sandy Hornbaker, for this introduction to bird watching as she guides you on a quarter-mile stroll along our Desert Hawk Trail. Bring binoculars if you have them, otherwise, Sandy has some to loan. Please bring water and closed-toe shoes. Location: Nature Center.

Core: Outdoor Skills

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Three Mile Thursday

Date: 1/15/2015 **Time:** 8 a.m.

Description: Want to get in shape and stay in shape? Want to meet others who want to do the same? Join us for this fun 3 mile moderate-pace hike through our scenic desert. Please bring water and closed-toe shoes. Location: Horse Staging Area.

Core: Health & Fitness

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Thursday Bird Walk

Date: 1/15/2015 **Time:** 10 a.m.

Description: How do you tell one brown bird from the next and what are the first three items to look for as the little rascal flits off? Are you already a novice but interested in keeping a yearly, state or national bird list? Bird expert, Sandy Hornbaker, will talk about bird habitat, behavior, range, etc. as we go in search of the native birds in this area. Please bring binoculars, water, and closed-toe shoes. Location: Horse Staging Area.

Core: Animals

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Amazing Desert Animals

Date: 1/16/2015 **Time:** 10 a.m.

Description: What are the wild animals that live in our desert? How do they survive and thrive here? What should you do if you encounter one? Discover amazing things about our desert animals when you join our Interpretive Ranger for this quarter-mile walk along the scenic Desert Hawk Trail. Please bring water and closed-toe shoes. Location: Nature Center.

Core: Animals

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USERY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK CALENDAR OF EVENTS

"Just for Kids" – Little Desert Explorers

Date: 1/16/2015 **Time:** 10 a.m.
Description: This 1-mile hike is designed for parents and caregivers with small children, ages 3 – 6 years. Using their senses, kids will discover lots of cool things about the plants and animals that call our desert "home." We will explore the desert along the scenic Merkle Trail. The hard-smooth surface of this trail will accommodate wheelchairs and strollers. Please bring water, hats, and closed-toe shoes. Location: Area 6.
Core: Animals

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Progressive Fitness Hike #1

Date: 1/17/2015 **Time:** 8 a.m.
Description: Want to increase your fitness level and also enjoy the outdoors? Hit the trails with us for a fun way to get back in shape! During this hike series, each hike will increase in length and difficulty in order to help you prepare for the grand finale hike – the 7.5-mile loop trail around Pass Mountain! This is a great way to get in shape and to hike many different trails in Usery Park at the same time. This hike series will take place every Saturday morning through February 21. This first hike of the series will be approximately 2.5 miles on fairly level terrain. Please bring water, hats, and closed-toe shoes. Location: Horse Staging Area. Note: Participation in the 4th or 5th hike in this series is required to do the final hike. Please be aware that this series involves elevation changes, uneven terrain, and a moderate pace. Participants are expected to stay with the group.
Core: Health & Fitness

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Archery 202

Date: 1/17/2015 **Time:** 9 a.m.
Description: For those who completed our "Archery 101" class, this class will take you to the next level! Participants will learn about field target archery, discover how to improve their accuracy, and enjoy some friendly competition. Equipment will be provided. Participants must be graduates of our "Archery 101" class. Minors must be accompanied by an adult. Please bring water, hats, and closed-toe shoes. Meet at the Archery Range. 9 AM - 11 AM. No registration – just show up and have some fun!
Core: Outdoor Skills

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Saturday Bird Walk

Date: 1/17/2015 **Time:** 10 a.m.
Description: How do you tell one brown bird from the next, and what are the first three items to look for as the little rascal flits off? Are you already a novice but interested in keeping a yearly, state or national bird list? Bird expert, Sandy Hornbaker, will talk about

bird habitat, behavior, range, etc. as we go in search of the native birds in this area. Please bring binoculars, water, and closed-toe shoes. If needed, we have binoculars to borrow. Location: Nature Center.
Core: Animals

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Stargazing for Everyone

Date: 1/17/2015 **Time:** 7:30 p.m.
Description: Come and watch the night sky under the expert guidance of Tony La Conte. Look through telescopes and enjoy a slide presentation under the stars. Learn the names of stars, see the constellations, and listen to stories of the night sky. View the craters of the moon, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, and the rings of Saturn. This is truly a fun night out! No pets, please. Please bring lawn chairs or blankets for seating. Location: Group Picnic D.
Core: Astronomy

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New to Arizona?

Date: 1/18/2015 **Time:** 2 p.m.
Description: Are you new to Arizona? Are you curious about cactus and scared of snakes? If so, join us for an introductory experience to the Sonoran Desert. After a question-and-answer session, we will take an enjoyable quarter-mile walk on our scenic Desert Hawk Trail. Please bring water and closed-toe shoes. Location: Nature Center.
Core: Animals

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Beginning Desert Hiking

Date: 1/19/2015 **Time:** 10 a.m.
Description: Interested in learning how to hike in the desert? This easy hike on a level one-mile scenic trail will introduce you to the fun world of desert hiking! Park hosts, Mark and Lynn, will cover what to carry, what to wear, and how to hike safely in the desert. Location: Area 6.
Core: Outdoor Skills

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Introduction to Desert Plants

Date: 1/21/2015 **Time:** 10 a.m.
Description: Join park host, Sandy Hornbaker, for this informative introduction to our Sonoran Desert plants. This quarter-mile stroll along a scenic trail will introduce you to some of the more common plants found in this area. Please bring water and closed-toe shoes. Location: Nature Center.
Core: Plants

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Three Mile Thursday

Date: 1/22/2015 **Time:** 8 a.m.
Description: Want to get in shape and stay in shape? Want to meet others who want to do the same? Join us for this fun 3 mile moderate-pace hike through our scenic desert. Please bring water and closed-toe shoes. Location: Horse Staging Area.
Core: Health & Fitness

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Thursday Bird Walk

Date: 1/22/2015 **Time:** 10 a.m.
Description: How do you tell one brown bird from the next and what are the first three items to look for as the little rascal flits off? Are you already a novice but interested in keeping a yearly, state or national bird list? Bird expert, Sandy Hornbaker, will talk about bird habitat, behavior, range, etc. as we go in search of the native birds in this area. Please bring binoculars, water, and closed-toe shoes. Location: Horse Staging Area.
Core: Animals

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"Just for Kids" – Storytime

Date: 1/22/2015 **Time:** 11 a.m.
Description: Kids (including parents and caregivers) will learn about our desert through a fun story, game, and a short nature walk. Feel free to bring a picnic lunch to enjoy after the program as we have two playgrounds in our park. Please bring water and closed-toe shoes. Location: Nature Center.
Core: Entertainment & Social Skills

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Home School Program: The Water Cycle

Date: 1/23/2015 **Time:** 9 a.m.
Description: Water, water, everywhere! It covers most of the earth. Become a drop of water and move through the water cycle. You won't believe all the places you can visit! NOTE: Pre-registration is required through the Arizona Science Center. To register, please call the Arizona Science Center at (602)716-2000 ext. 229, or email campbellm@azscience.org. Arizona Science Center members: \$20 for the first child and \$10 for each additional child. Non-members: \$30 for the first child and \$10 for each additional child. There is also a \$6 per vehicle entry fee to enter the park unless you have a county parks annual pass. Location: Usery Park Nature Center
Core: Aquatics

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Backyard Birding

Date: 1/23/2015 **Time:** 10 a.m.
Description: Do you drink coffee on your back porch Saturday mornings wondering about the names of the little birds flittering about? Bring your coffee to Usery Park and explore the endless possibilities of backyard birding with bird expert, Sandy Hornbaker. Learn how to attract different birds to your own backyard and what you must provide to your feathered friends. Ask Sandy what your responsibilities are as a backyard birdwatcher and what you can expect. Please bring binoculars and water. Location: Campsite 21 in the Buckhorn Campground.
Core: Outdoor Skills

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USERY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Strange and Silly Saguaros

Date: 1/23/2015 **Time:** 6 p.m.

Description: When it comes to desert plants, saguaros are everybody's favorite! Like people, each one of them is unique. They can even make us laugh! Ranger B has taken photos of some of the most strange and silly saguaros around. Join us for this entertaining slide presentation and explore the special world of these amazing desert giants. Watch us feed our snakes after the program at 7pm. Then join our "Animal Flashlight Walk" at 7:30pm at no extra cost! Location: Nature Center..
Core: Plants

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Animal Flashlight Walk

Date: 1/23/2015 **Time:** 7:30 p.m.

Description: We are the nocturnal animals of the desert and we like to hide. Help Ranger B find us if you can! If you would like to learn about us and enjoy a night walk in the desert, then join Ranger B as he takes you on this exciting 1-mile/1-hour walk along the Merkle Trail. The Merkle Trail offers universal access and the hard-smooth surface of this trail will accommodate wheelchairs and strollers. Please bring water, a flashlight, and closed-toe shoes. No pets, please. Location: Area 6. Join our "Strange and Silly Saguaros" program inside our Nature Center at 6pm, and our snake feeding at 7pm at no extra cost!

Core: Animals

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Progressive Fitness Hike #2

Date: 1/24/2015 **Time:** 8 a.m.

Description: Want to increase your fitness level and also enjoy the outdoors? Hit the trails with us for a fun way to get back in shape! During this hike series, each hike will increase in length and difficulty in order to help you prepare for the grand finale hike – the 7.5 mile loop trail around Pass Mountain! This is a great way to get in shape and to hike many different trails in Usery Park at the same time. This hike series will take place every Saturday morning through February 21. This second hike of the series will be approximately 3.5 miles on fairly level terrain. Please bring water, hats, and closed-toe shoes. Location: Horse Staging Area. Note: Participation in the 4th or 5th hike in this series is required to do the final hike. Please be aware that this series involves elevation changes, uneven terrain, and a moderate pace. Participants are expected to stay with the group.

Core: Health & Fitness

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Exploring Desert Washes

Date: 1/24/2015 **Time:** 10 a.m.

Description: Have you ever walked inside a desert wash? What makes them so special and unique? How do washes contribute to the health of the desert itself?

Join us for a look at the fascinating world of desert washes as we explore their importance to the desert ecosystem. This walk is 1.5 mile in length. Please bring water and closed-toe shoes. Location: Horse Staging Area.
Core: Aquatics

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Saturday Bird Walk

Date: 1/24/2015 **Time:** 10 a.m.

Description: How do you tell one brown bird from the next, and what are the first three items to look for as the little rascal flits off? Are you already a novice but interested in keeping a yearly, state or national bird list? Bird expert, Sandy Hornbaker, will talk about bird habitat, behavior, range, etc. as we go in search of the native birds in this area. Please bring binoculars, water, and closed-toe shoes. If needed, we have binoculars to borrow. Location: Nature Center.
Core: Animals

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Kid's Photo Scavenger Hunt

Date: 1/24/2015 **Time:** 2 p.m.

Description: Kids, do you like to take photos? Join us to take photos of cool-looking things out in our desert! Afterwards, you will have fun seeing your photos projected on a large screen inside our Nature Center. This program involves a short desert walk and is designed for ages 7-12. Kids must be accompanied by an adult. Please bring water and wear closed-toe shoes. Cameras will be provided for you. Meet at the Nature Center.
Core: Outdoor Skills

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Campground Nature Walk

Date: 1/24/2015 **Time:** 4 p.m.

Description: Join park host, Sandy Hornbaker, for a late afternoon sojourn through our campground and nature trail on a quest to spot desert wildlife and plants. Wildlife sightings are not guaranteed, but bring binoculars, your afternoon tea, and a little patience. Be prepared to walk up to one mile. Please bring water, hats, and closed-toe shoes. Location: Campsite 21 in the Buckhorn Campground.

Core: Animals

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Amazing Desert Plants

Date: 1/25/2015 **Time:** 2 p.m.

Description: What are the names of the unique plants that grow in our desert? How do they survive (and thrive!) in such a harsh environment? Discover the special strategies of these incredible plants when you join our Interpretive Ranger, Ranger B, for this quarter-mile stroll along the scenic Desert Hawk Trail. Please bring water and closed-toe shoes. Location: Nature Center.
Core: Plants

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Basics of Bird Watching

Date: 1/28/2015 **Time:** 10 a.m.

Description: Interested about getting into bird watching but don't know where to start? Want to know which bird is which and how to spot them? Join bird expert, Sandy Hornbaker, for this introduction to bird watching as she guides you on a quarter-mile stroll along our Desert Hawk Trail. Bring binoculars if you have them, otherwise, Sandy has some to loan. Please bring water and closed-toe shoes. Location: Nature Center.

Core: Outdoor Skills

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Sonoran Desert Eco-Tour

Date: 1/28/2015 **Time:** 10 a.m.

Description: What makes our Sonoran Desert such a special place? What are the close relationships that are shared between our unique plants and animals and the land on which they live? Increase your knowledge of our desert by joining Ranger B on this exciting half-mile stroll. Please bring water and closed-toe shoes. Location: Horse Staging Area.

Core: Plants

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Rock Art of Arizona

Date: 1/28/2015 **Time:** 12 p.m.

Description: What in the world is a petroglyph? Who made them? Why, when and how? Where can you find them? No one really knows everything about these fascinating reminders of the past, but park volunteer, Susan Peters, has plenty of personal photographs and some interesting tidbits to share during this entertaining one-hour slide presentation. Don't forget to bring your lunch if you wish. Location: Nature Center.

Core: Archaeology & History

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Three Mile Thursday

Date: 1/29/2015 **Time:** 8 a.m.

Description: Want to get in shape and stay in shape? Want to meet others who want to do the same? Join us for this fun 3 mile moderate-pace hike through our scenic desert. Please bring water and closed-toe shoes. Location: Horse Staging Area.

Core: Health & Fitness

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Thursday Bird Walk

Date: 1/29/2015 **Time:** 10 a.m.

Description: How do you tell one brown bird from the next and what are the first three items to look for as the little rascal flits off? Are you already a novice but interested in keeping a yearly, state or national bird list? Bird expert, Sandy Hornbaker, will talk about bird habitat, behavior, range, etc. as we go in search of the native birds in this area. Please bring binoculars, water, and closed-toe shoes. Location: Horse Staging Area.

Core: Animals

USERY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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Hike the Wind Cave Trail

Date: 1/30/2015 **Time:** 10 a.m.

Description: Why is the hike up to Wind Cave such a popular hike? Join us and find out! This difficult, 3-mile round-trip hike gains over 800 feet in elevation and presents some of the most spectacular scenery in the Valley! Please bring water, hats, snacks, and closed-toe shoes. Meet at the Wind Cave Trailhead.

Core: Health & Fitness

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Desert Edibles Walk

Date: 1/30/2015 **Time:** 10 a.m.

Description: How have people survived off the land for thousands of years? Which desert plants are edible and when are they edible? If you would like to know the answers to these questions, or any questions you may have about desert edibles, then this walk is for you! Join Ranger B on this quarter-mile stroll along the Desert Hawk Trail as he shares some useful facts about our edible desert plants. Please bring water and closed-toe shoes. Location: Nature Center.

Core: Plants

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All About Optics

Date: 1/30/2015 **Time:** 12 p.m.

Description: Interested in spotting wildlife? Want to know how to choose and use the right optics? Bring your sandwich to the "Brown-Bag It" series inside our Nature Center as park host, Sandy Hornbaker, shares useful tips on binoculars and presents various makes and models for you to try. Location: Nature Center.

Core: Outdoor Skills

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Progressive Fitness Hike #3

Date: 1/31/2015 **Time:** 8 a.m.

Description: Want to increase your fitness level and also enjoy the outdoors? Hit the trails with us for a fun way to get back in shape! During this hike series, each hike will increase in length and difficulty in order to help you prepare for the grand finale hike – the 7.5-mile loop trail around Pass Mountain! This is a great way to get in shape and to hike many different trails in Usery Park at the same time. This hike series will take place every Saturday morning through February 21. This third hike of the series will be approximately 4.5 miles. Please bring water, hats, and closed-toe shoes. Location: Horse Staging Area. Note: Participation in the 4th or 5th hike in this series is required to do the final hike. Please be aware that this series involves elevation changes, uneven terrain, and a moderate pace. Participants are expected to stay with the group. You will enjoy this challenge!

Core: Health & Fitness

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Backyard Birding

Date: 1/31/2015 **Time:** 10 a.m.

Description: Do you drink coffee on your back porch Saturday mornings wondering about the names of the little birds flittering about? Bring your coffee to Usery Park and explore the endless possibilities of backyard birding with bird expert, Sandy Hornbaker. Learn how to attract different birds to your own backyard and what you must provide to your feathered friends. Ask Sandy what your responsibilities are as a backyard birdwatcher and what you can expect. Please bring binoculars and water.

Location: Campsite 21 in the Buckhorn Campground.

Core: Outdoor Skills

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Wildlife Safari

Date: 1/31/2015 **Time:** 2 p.m.

Description: We all love to see wild animals, but where are they hiding this time of year? Join us on this exciting 1.5-mile wildlife safari as we sneak to the secret places where the park's wildlife is often seen. Feel free to bring your camera and binoculars. Please bring water, hats, and closed-toe shoes. Location: Horse Staging Area.

Core: Animals

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Geology of the Grand Canyon

Date: 1/31/2015 **Time:** 7 p.m.

Description: The Grand Canyon is one of the most beautiful places on earth! How did it get that way? What formed it? How old is it? What makes it so special? Join local geology professor, A. J. Lombard, as he shares a wealth of information about the unique geology of the Grand Canyon in this exciting and colorful slide presentation. Bring your curiosities and questions to Usery Park and discover lots of amazing things about our national treasure! Location: Nature Center.

Core: Geology

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STAFF

Park Supervisor: Dan Wilson

Interpretive Ranger: Brennan Basler

Office Asst.: Andrea Despotides

Maintenance: Tony Botwinis, Ray Martin and Todd Gunter

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MESSAGE FROM THE PARK SUPERVISOR:

Thank you for your continued support and interest in Usery Mountain Regional Park. We realize that you have a choice when it comes to selecting recreation venues and appreciate your business!

Sincerely,

Dan Wilson

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WHAT TO BRING:

Please wear closed-toe shoes or boots for most programs, and bring plenty of drinking water. See descriptions below for specifics.

Notes: Fees for our programs are included in the park entry fee of \$6 per vehicle or with your annual pass or camping fee. Reservations are not required unless specified in the program description. Hikes/programs are canceled if heavy inclement weather is imminent. If possible, canceled hikes will be posted on our website.

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RANGER GUIDED HIKES and PROGRAMS:

Start times vary, check schedule carefully. For more information, call the park office at (480) 984-0032.

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*HAPPY
NEW YEAR!*

